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GENERAL NOTES.

The March, 1915, number of the *Popular Science Monthly* should prove of special interest to Western readers, in that it is entitled the "Pacific Coast Number," and is devoted entirely to articles in the various fields of scientific activity on Pacific Coast problems. Our members will find of particular interest a well-written and interesting article which heads the number,— "Astronomy on the Pacific Coast," by Professor R. T. CRAWFORD. Other papers of more than usual interest are "The Volcanic Activity of Lassen Peak, California," dealing with the recent eruptions, by Professor R. S. HOLWAY, and "The Last Wild Tribe of California," by Professor T. T. WATERMAN, treating of ISHI, the last of the Yana Indians, whose "discovery" in 1911 created such a furore among anthropologists.

A Second Harvard Map of the Sky.—As is well known, the Harvard College Observatory published several years ago a map of the entire sky, composed of photographic prints taken from negatives made at Cambridge and Arequipa with lenses of one inch aperture. Each chart was eight by ten inches in size, covered an area of 30° square, and the entire sky was covered by only fifty-five such charts. The limiting magnitude was about 11.5, and the total number of stars shown on the prints was about 1,683,000. In Circular No. 185 it is announced that a second series of similar charts is to be published; in this set, however, the centers of the plates coincide with the corners of the plates of the first series, it having been found that many fainter stars did not show at the corners of the large field employed because of distortion. The new set will be issued at a price of \$15.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, of London, a motion in favor of admitting women to membership was adopted by a nearly unanimous vote. It is stated in

Nature that a supplementary charter will now be applied for to permit this resolution to be put into effect.

Among recent medal awards to astronomers is that of the Rumford Medal of the American Academy of Science (Boston) to Professor JOEL STEBBINS, for his application of the selenium cell to the study of light variations in stars; and that of the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society to Professor ALFRED FOWLER for his spectroscopic researches.

We regret to record the death, on January 24, 1915, of Dr. ARTHUR AUWERS, at the age of 76. Dr. AUWERS, for many years before his death, was known as one of the foremost astronomers of his generation, and was accorded many honors. He was the second Bruce Medalist of our Society, receiving the award in 1899. A brief account of his work to that date will be found in No. 67 of these Publications.¹

Observers interested in watching for meteors and in recording their paths will find a convenient set of star maps in the current number of the *Journal* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.² The maps, constructed by Dr. REYNOLD K. YOUNG, of the Dominion Observatory, are on the gnomonic or central projection, so that great circles of the celestial sphere appear as straight lines on the maps, and cover the sky from the North Pole to — 30° declination.

Since its beginning, in 1907, the *Journal* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, has been published as a bi-monthly, but, in the November-December, 1914, number, Dr. C. A. CHANT, the editor, announced that in future it would appear monthly, omitting, however, two summer months. The change, affording more frequent and prompt publication, is of obvious advantage, and it is to be hoped that the plan will prove a success.

¹ 11, 61, 1899.

² 9, 7, 1915.

M. ROBERT JONCKHEERE, Director of the Observatory of the University of Lille, France, is at present at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, England, and requests that publications intended for him be sent to this address.

Note on the International Latitude Service.—From a letter recently received from Dr. ALBRECHT, of the International Geodetic Association at Potsdam, it is learned that notwithstanding the war, observations for variation of latitude will be continued during the year 1915 at all of the stations except Gaithersburg, Md.

The observation books from Japan, Dr. ALBRECHT says, have thus far been received regularly. There is an interruption in the receipt of the books from Tschardjui, but not in the series of observations.

It is gratifying to know that the warring nations can still co-operate to some extent at least in scientific work.—J. G. PORTER (in *Popular Astronomy*, March, 1915).